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Issue 6

Post COVID-19 Workplace Newsletter

This biweekly newsletter brings together ideas and opinions from multiple sources on relevant post-COVID-19 topics. This issue features how organizations are preparing for the return to the office, how to maintain employee health and safety at the workplace, and school re-openings.

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Return to the Office

1. [As Offices Reopen Amid Coronavirus, Workers Clash Over Masks, Cubicle Barriers and Lysol](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 13, 2020)

When Matt Wells returned to the office in mid-April, he was surprised to see a note pinned to a colleague’s cubicle urging people to keep their distance. “I thought it was an overreaction” to the coronavirus pandemic, he said. Now he has a note just like it on his cubicle. He also has strung a chain of paper clips across the opening to discourage visitors from stepping inside. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

2. [COVID-19 and the Workplace: Implications, Issues, and Insights for Future Research and Action](#) (Harvard Business School, July 7, 2020)

Assembling a large, diverse team of researchers to make sense of COVID-19’s impact on issues of work and organizational psychology, this project explores changes that are unfolding for practitioners and human resources professionals.

3. [‘Kat’ Returns to the Office. Her Employer Is Watching Her Closely.](#) (Wall Street Journal, June 29, 2020)

Follow a day in the life of a fictional U.S. office worker coming back after working remotely during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

4. [Communications Get Personal: How Leaders Can Engage Employees During a Return to Work](#) (McKinsey & Company, June 26, 2020)

When the COVID-19 crisis first erupted, organizations across the world were plunged into such uncertainty it was hard for many to know whether they would emerge intact. Now, though the road ahead remains difficult, leaders are shifting from whether they can return to how to do so.

Health and Well-being

1. [COVID-19 Remakes Elevator Etiquette](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 18, 2020)

Office buildings limit passengers and require masks to mitigate risk; upgraded ventilation for elevators could help. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

2. [Will Office Staff be Required to Wear Face Coverings – and Would this Work?](#) (People Management, July 15, 2020)

People Management explores some key questions on the possibility of mandatory mask wearing being extended to desk-based employees.

3. [When Co-Workers Test Positive for Covid-19: What You Need to Know](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 12, 2020)

Employers should immediately tell workers who have been exposed to the coronavirus while protecting the privacy of the affected employee. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

4. [The Post-COVID Workplace: Will Employees Be Safe?](#) (Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, July 7, 2020)

After nearly four months of a coronavirus-compelled shutdown, many workers across the U.S. are being asked to return to offices and shop floors. The kind of workplace they'll be returning to, however, is not so clear.

School Reopening

1. [How Schools Can Reopen Safely: Recommendations from Health Experts](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 13, 2020)

Improved air filtration, keeping children in 'pods' and increased time outdoors are ways to lower risk of coronavirus transmission inside the classroom. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

2. [Will COVID-19 Push Women Out of the Labor Force? What will Happen if the Economy Opens but Schools do not?](#) (Psychology Today, July 2, 2020)

What happens if the economy reopens and schools do not? Is it possible that much of the feminist progress of the last 50 years could be washed away by COVID-19?

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